

Serial Number 09/778,333 filed February 7, 2001

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Another approach for fiber production is blends as disclosed in US Patent 4,066,587 wherein a polyamide (formed from a long-chain dibasic acid containing at least 18 carbon atoms and a diamine) is added at 0.01 to 20 weight percent to polyester. Example VII represents the closest art in US Patent 4,006,587 and it is outside this invention because the polyamide is not end-capped and hence will react with the polyester thereby lowering its viscosity and impeding movement of the additive to the fiber surface. See Japan Patent Publication 4336-1971 (published February 3, 1971) teaching melt spinning polyester at 10-40 weight percent in polyamide. The following Table lists other blends:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

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This invention responds to the need for thermoplastic articles which maintain their inherent mechanical properties and cost structure yet have a permanent outer surface that has selectively varied chemical functionality. The major benefit is to overcome inherent deficiencies related to: (1) article incompatibility with different composite matrices, (2) inadequate environmental stability (light, chemical, etc.), and (3) general surface-related end-use characteristics such as poor abrasion resistance, excessive friction, etc. The present invention describes the additives, the fiber-making process, and the resulting novel articles. The process involves

(a) adding a substantially organic molten component with CSP value of at least 8 to a molten thermoplastic polymer and mixing to substantially uniformly disperse the molten component in the molten thermoplastic polymer and form a heterogeneous blend wherein